



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District  
4155 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435



# Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	ASJ-MVK-2004-632
EVALUATOR:	Ms. A. Susan Jarvis
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5146
FAX NO.:	(601) 631-5459
E-MAIL:	regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil
DATE:	November 23, 2004
EXPIRATION DATE:	December 13, 2004

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has a copy of the application on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:

Louisiana Department of  
Transportation and Development  
Post Office Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Name of Agent:

Mr. Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
Louisiana TIMED Managers,  
Incorporated  
Suite 200  
6300 Corporate Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

Location of Work: Sections 4, 5, 8, 17, 18, and 19 of T16N-R3W, and sections 22, 27, 28, 32, and 33 of T17N-R3W, latitude 32° 24' 11" longitude 92° 41' 23", within the Dugdemona drainage basin, Jackson Parish, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to mechanically clear and fill 9.955 acres of wetlands and 1.136 acres of other waters of the United States associated with the construction and maintenance of the widening and overlay of U.S. Highway 167 from Quitman, Louisiana, to the Lincoln Parish line.

The project would begin on U.S. Highway 167 at the north end of Quitman and would extend in a northerly direction from STA. 21+720 to 31+458, ending one mile south of the Lincoln Parish line. The existing highway would remain in place for southbound traffic, and two new lanes of asphaltic concrete would be constructed to the east of the existing highway for the northbound traffic, separated from the existing roadway by a depressed median varying in width from 60 feet to 90 feet.

Roadbed dimensions for the new two-lane highway would average 40 feet top width and 105 feet bottom width. Each lane would be 12 feet wide. The average cleared right-of-way width would be 240 feet. The maximum right-of-way width, south of the U.S. Highway 167 intersection with Louisiana Highway 148 and Louisiana Highway 818, would be 287 feet. The project would require approximately 117,000 cubic yards of general excavation and 367,700 cubic yards of embankment. The total project length would be 6.2 miles.

The purpose of the work is to widen and upgrade the existing U.S. Highway 167 roadway, to provide a four-lane north-south link from Alexandria to the Arkansas state line to improve vehicular mobility and to improve accessibility along the U.S. Highway 167 corridor by increasing the safety and level of service of the highway.

The proposed project calls for the existing U.S. Highway 167 from Quitman, Louisiana, to the Lincoln Parish line, Jackson Parish, to be four-laned and upgraded to meet current transportation standards. This proposed project is the result of legislation created in 1989, known as the Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development (TIMED), which designated certain highways and transportation facilities for improvement. One objective of the TIMED program is to ensure that a four-laned highway connects most major urban areas of the state. The four-laning of U.S. Highway 167 is an important element in linking central and north Louisiana with Arkansas.

A total of 14 sites was delineated and seven sites were identified as wetlands that would be impacted by the project. Site 4 covers an area located in the vicinity of Station No. (STA.) 22+980 to 24+375, and would impact approximately 7.0 acres. Site 7 is located in the vicinity of STA. 27+070 to 27+400, and would impact approximately 1.18 acres of wetlands. Sites 9 through 13 cover an area located in the vicinity of STA. 28+770 to 30+850, and would impact approximately 1.775 acres of wetlands.

The dominant species of vegetation at the seven delineated wetland sites include: *Acer rubrum*, *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, *Arundinaria gigantea*, *Berchemia scandens*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Briza minor*, *Campsis radicans*, *Carex debilis*, *Carex frankii*, *Carex intumescens*, *Carex vulpinoidea*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, *Centella asiatica*, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, *Chasmanthium latifolium*, *Cirsium horridulum*, *Cyperus* sp., *Dicanthelium* sp., *Erianthus strictus*, *Galium tinctorium*, *Ilex decidua*, *Juncus accuminatus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus marginatus*, *Juncus tenuis*, *Ligustrum sinense*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Lonicera japonica*, *Mikania scandens*, *Myrica cerifera*, *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Polygonum* sp., *Quercus nigra*, *Rhynchospora corniculata*, *Rumex hastatulus*, *Salix nigra*, *Sambucus canadensis*, *Saururus cernuus*, *Scirpus* sp., *Smilax laurifolia*, *Taxodium distichum*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Typha latifolia*, and *Vitis rotundifolia*.

A total of approximately 9.955 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be impacted by the construction of the captioned project, including the cleared right-of-way. The applicant proposes to begin mitigation for the wetlands being impacted by construction activities for this project by minimizing impacts in accordance with their standard specifications. Unavoidably lost wetland functions and values would be appropriately mitigated.

A total of 1.136 acres of other waters of the United States would be impacted by the construction of the captioned project, including the cleared right-of-way. Of the 14 delineated sites, 13 sites contained areas identified as other waters of the United States. The locations and amounts of impacts for these sites are shown in the Wetland Delineation Site Summary Table.

The two proposed bridges over unnamed tributaries of Cypress Bayou are located in the vicinities of STA. 24+355 to 24+391 and the vicinity of STA. 31+121 to 31+157, respectively, and would be concrete slab span bridges. Impacts to wetlands associated with the bridge construction would include approach and revetment work.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the United States associated with the mechanized land clearing and highway construction activities requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Jackson Parish listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

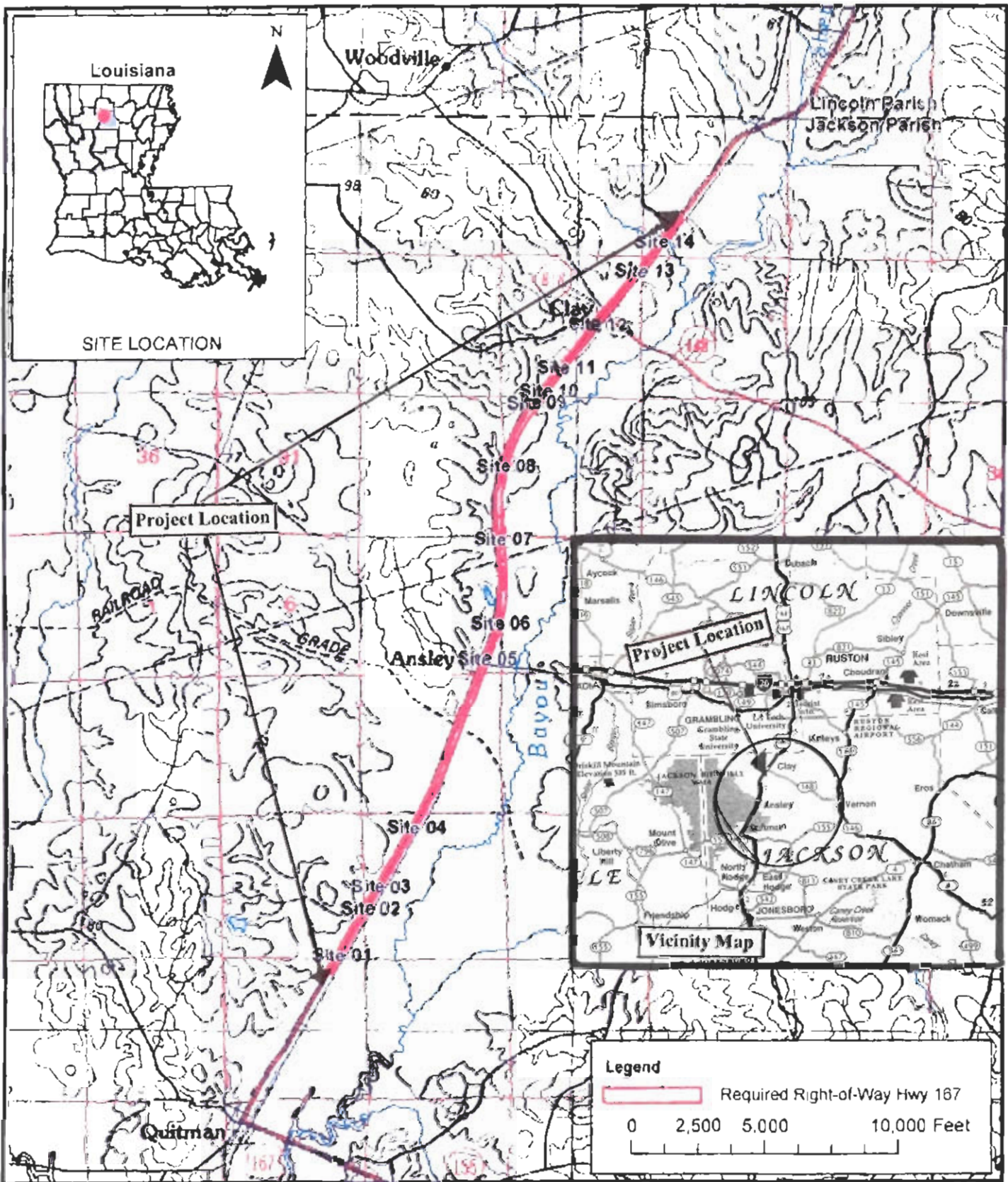
Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp>, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp>.

W. Harold Lee  
Team Leader  
Evaluation Section





# **PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

State Project No. 023-06-0044

Quitman - Lincoln Line

U.S. Highway 167, Jackson Parish, Louisiana

USGS 15' Series Monroe South (1983) Quadrangle

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**WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE**  
**STATE PROJECT NO. 023-06-0044**  
**U.S. Highway 167 – Quitman to Lincoln Parish Line**  
**Jackson Parish, Louisiana**

Site	Station		Total Impacts (Acres)		Type
			Wetlands	Other Waters	
	Start	End			
1	21+750	21+900	--	0.081	IS
2	22+560		--	0.11	IS
3	22+780		--	0.022	IS
4	22+980	24+375	7	0.38	FW/PS/IS
5	25+700		--	0.051	IS
6	26+140		--	0.023	ES
7	27+070	27+400	1.18	0.134	EW/FW/IS
8	27+970		--	0.079	IS
9	28+770	28+820	0.1	--	S-S
10	28+950	29+120	0.43	0.043	EW/FW/ES
11	29+235	29+530	0.93	0.131	FW/PS
12	29+880	30+050	0.178	0.034	EW/IS
13	30+735	30+850	0.137	0.029	EW/IS
14	31+120		--	0.019	PS
<b>Totals</b>			9.955	1.136	

Legend: IS-Intermittent Stream; FW-Forested Wetland;  
PS-Perennial Stream; EW- Emergent Wetland; S-S-Scrub-Shrub;  
ES-Ephemeral Stream

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